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Arab heritages, equipped with knowledge, aware of its duties and obligations, working for the general welfare, imbued with the spirit of collaboration and fraternity among all citizens." (Article 28.) To achieve these ends the State undertakes to supervise all educational institutions in the country and to formulate programs to be applied in the various stages of training. The State alone has the right to grant and to standardize school certificates. Further, a Board of Education is to be set up to formulate educational policy and plans, the composition and functions of which are to be defined by law.

Military service is compulsory, the justification being that the defense of the country is a "sacred duty" and that the Army is the guardian of the Fatherland. The family is the basis of society and is to be protected by the State. The State protects and encourages marriage and endeavors to remove the material and social obstacles which hinder it.

The transitional provisions of the Constitution specify that within ten years from its coming into force illiteracy must be eliminated from the country. Another provision relates to the formulation of a plan for the gradual settlement of the tribes.

Finally, the Constitution stipulates that no amendment is to be made for two years. Thereafter the Constitution may be amended either by a proposal from the President with the approval of the Cabinet and Parliament if one-third of its members submit an application to this effect. Parliament will then consider the proposed amendment; if approved by an absolute majority, it is considered approved as a motion. If it is rejected, the rejection is final and no application for the amendment of the same article can be submitted again for one year. Six months after the adoption of a motion in favor of amendment, Parliament can begin to discuss the proposed alteration. A two-thirds majority is required for approval.

APPRAISAL

The Syrian Constitution of 1950 clearly reflects the influence of both the new European constitutions and the recent course of Arab nationalism. The socialistic trends reflect a realization of the need of rebuilding the social-economic system, which had